

Remarks

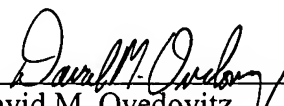
The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

In light of the above-mentioned amendments, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi YAHATA et al.

By:



David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,386
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
February 6, 2006